



# Montgomery County Council

***From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Floreen***

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Councilmembers Floreen, Knapp Urge Long-Range Funding Plan for WMATA and Increased Federal Government Contribution**

"As Chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee, I believe it is essential to close the gap in funding our Metro system," said Councilmember Nancy Floreen. "The resolution we are introducing today recognizes this need and urges the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, as well as the Mayor of Washington, D.C., to develop a long-range funding plan for WMATA.

"The federal government must contribute as well, particularly since nearly half of Metro's peak period riders are federal employees, and 40% of Metrorail stations directly serve federal facilities. As a critical segment of the region's transportation network – not to mention our homeland security plan -- the Metro system must continue and flourish.

"It's long past time for federal and state leaders to shoulder their obligations and do the right thing for Metro. If they don't, the question is not if the system will suffer a major breakdown – it's when."

The resolution introduced today references the work of a 13-member Dedicated Review Panel on Metro Funding that operated under a charter from the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and recommended dedicated funding for the system. The resolution strongly encourages the development of a long-term funding plan for Metro and an increase in federal funding for the system. The resolution further encourages the Governor of Maryland to ensure that the proposal for a funding plan includes the entire state.

Councilmember Michael Knapp added, "Without a renewed commitment to funding WMATA, the system will rapidly become one that is running on empty. The Dedicated Review Panel proposed a number of options that – for the sake of the system and the millions who depend on it – deserve full and fair consideration."

The resolution is scheduled for consideration by the full Council on February 8, 2005.

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